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# What Does The Future Hold For Me As A Christian?

Wyatt Sawyer

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WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR ME AS A CHRISTIAN?

1.

INT. \* Phil. 3:13-14. "Apprehended": Trans: "captured life", "be all I should be", "have it in my hands", GR: "to possess one's own. To appropriate, to seize, to take possession of, a laying hold of." MODERN: I have not "arrived", "succeeded" or won the contest!

"Forgetting": Paul had much to forget. \*Acts 22:1-5.

\*Acts 26:9-12.

\*I Tim. 1:12-16.

"Reaching forth", "press toward": An optimist!

Always looking ahead. Better things to come!

Things will be better tomorrow.

Do your best and leave the rest to God!

\*Phil. 4:4, 5, 6-7, 8-9, 10-11, 12-13. Winner!

"The mark": Finish-line of a race. Goal.

Point in aim in archery. Aim in life.

"The prize": Reward. Lit. of valuable PRICE!

Something received in a contest, in competition or a struggle.

PRIZES: Money, property, esteem, honor, advantage, satisfaction, position or advantage

Ill. I Sam. 17:1-54. David offered RICHES and Saul's DAUGHTER to kill Goliath.

Killed Goliath and prize given to another! (MERAB!)

MICHAL loved David. Offered him if he kill 100

Philistines. Killed 200. Got his prize!!!

CONCLUSION: What does the future hold for me as a Christian? A PRIZE!!!!

I. THE CHRISTIAN RUNS THE RACE OF LIFE FOR A PRIZE----CROWN OF LIFE FROM GOD.

\* I Cor. 9:19-27.

1. V. 19. Personally, he did not owe anyone anything. The world had not done anything special for him! Not in their debt. No obligation.

YET, he made himself a servant to all. RATHER, Christ did!

\* Matt. 25:45. \*Acts 9:15-16. Pre-selected. Willing! \* Rom. 1:14-18.

GOAL: Gain as many precious souls as possible.

20. Sought COMMON GROUND with the Jews to win their confidence and a hearing for the gospel. Affiliated with all of the OLD LAW that was RE-STATED in the NEW LAW. Did not compromise!

21. Sought common ground with the GENTILES (without the Law). He accented his Roman heritage with these. (What he didn't tell them, didn't hurt them. A matter of emphasis.)

To WEAK, he emphasized his weaknesses. Common ground.

22. Sought SOMETHING IN COMMON with all men, in order to save as many as possible.

23. Not a selfish motive; but for God's sake, and the sake of the lost.

24. In worldly contests, ALL run, but only the fastest gets the PRIZE. Isthmian games of Greece held at Corinth in huge arena there. World famous. Corinthians fully aware of this illustration!

The Isthmian crown was a wreath of pine branches, along with world FAME!  
 Heb. 12:1. We ALL in the race. A crown for EACH: \*II Tim. 4:6-8.  
 I John 2:1-2.

- Vs. 25. Temperance is essential to success in athletics and religion.  
Self-control, regimentation, practice, stress, strain, tension.  
 Best-trained are nearly always the winners! Better endurance. Stronger.
26. Paul had some absolutes. Definite goals. Specific beliefs. Stationary-  
 mark to shoot at. Mission. Purpose. Plans. Hopes. Aspirations.  
 Not flailing away in sophistry, philosophy, modern education, humanism----  
 rather solidly grounded in GOD'S WISDOM: TRUTH.  
 Untrained boxers flail away in the ring at everything that moves and  
 hits almost nothing. Christians not that way!
27. Paul harnessed his BODY. Mind over body. Spirit over matter.  
 God over Satan. A daily task. Conscious struggle! Ill. Possible  
 not to be conscious of one's NEED for God, the church or the TRUTH.  
Guideposts: Aug. 1978, pp. 7-9. "Between Heaven & Earth." Mark Mongillo,  
 Fort Lauderdale, Fla. No CONSCIOUS NEED of God until both cutes  
 failed to open in 12th sky dive.
- Question: Is it GOOD to HAVE or FACE a tragedy, IF it awakes one's  
 spirit to his NEED of God in his life? At ANY cost!!!  
Ill. Roger Scott in MUST THE YOUNG DIE TOO? felt his 3  
 murders were terribly terrible, BUT he was grateful SOMETHING  
 awakened him to his Spiritual senses before he died.
- Question: Can a FAITHFUL Christian fall from Grace????  
 Vs. 27 said PAUL could! Was HE a faithful Christian???

# CONCLUSIONS:

1. Man does not do ANYTHING for nothing!!! A reward of some kind in  
 every act and deed.  
 Payment, satisfaction, freedom from penalty or punishment, fame,  
 pleasure, position, advantage or acceptance.
2. All of us like and want rewards. Memories of past rewards are  
 pleasant to behold: Ill. Bone handled knife! (Liberty,  
 Saturday Evening Post, Colliers, 5¢.) Prizes for sales.  
 ALSO: DALLAS TIMES HERALD: Trips to Lake Worth Pavillion,  
 Galveston, New Orleans.

II. WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR ME, A CHRISTIAN? Two basic things: Material  
 prizes and Spiritual prizes.

A. Material: Ps. 23:6. Good things. Ps. 37:25. Man's greatest fear:  
 starvation! Christian, never! Matt. 6:33. Family feed!!!

1. Many learn to trust the hard way. \*Heb. 12:5-7.  
Ill. Bill, Lou and Billie Lou Rollings. Proud. Hard. Scoulding.  
 Poverty in illness. Prize was humiliation. God's gift was  
 humility! \*Col. 3:1-4. Dedicated ALL to God now.